



**Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road, Traverse City,
MI, 49686 –1802
231-947-3117
office@uucgt/ www.uucgt.org
uucgt.org

**UUCGT Office is OPEN
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-3:00**

Minister

Rev. Alex Jensen
alexjensen@uucgt.org

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com

Religious Education

Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

Office Administrator

Arica Eshelman
office@uucgt.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2022 -2023

Pam Hendrick	Trustee
Chris Walter	Trustee
Tom Darnton	Trustee
David Hassing	Trustee
Dusty Coulton	Trustee
Amanda Mangiardi	Trustee
Judy Myers	Trustee

**Board Meeting
Wednesday 7.20.22
7:00 PM**

Date	Service Participants	Title/Description
7.3.22	Livestream Service	Watch the Flash
	https://uuaa.org/worship-online/July 3rd: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor Sunday Service (10:30 AM) Theme: TBA Description: TBA	
7.10.22	Livestream Service	Watch the Flash
	http://peopleschurch.net/engage-with-us/service-5/ July 10th: People's Church of Kalamazoo Sunday Service (10:45 AM) Theme: TBD Description: TBA	
7.17.22	Lay Led Service Coordinator: Dan Tholen	Evil Exists—When is War Necessary?
	This topic seems appropriate after the sky-busting visit by the Blue Angels to inspire our youth to sign up for the armed forces.	
7.24.2	Lay Led Service Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak	Keeping Neighbors Dry, Warm, and Safe
	Rev. Pam Pendexter is a retired Congregational minister who is currently a member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Beulah. She will speak on that church's ministry to make homes in Benzie County safe, warm, and accessible. Our Community Needs committee just allocated \$1,000 to that project.	
7.31.22	Lay Led Service Coordinator Pam Hendrick Guest Minister: Rev. Beth Marshall	Embracing Selah
	In a time when our world is hurting so very much, this service focuses on the power of what individuals <i>can</i> do. The title is drawn from the name of a thriving nature preserve outside of Austin, TX and the man who dreamt it into being. The preserve is named "Selah," which he translates as: "To pause, to stop, to look around and reflect. To take care of it, and share it."	



The service on August 14 will be "Your Five Minutes"
Congregants are invited to speak for five minutes on subjects related to personal spirituality or UU principles or sources.

Please note on page 3 are descriptions of two talks by Anthony Wilgus, husband of Rev Beth Marshall, that will be held at 9:00 prior to the services on July 31 and August 7.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE *from* REV. ALEX

I am currently on leave from my pastoral duties for Vacation and Study Leave through Monday, August 22nd, 2022, returning to the Office on Tuesday, August 23rd. This is an important time for my own rest and rejuvenation, and I will not be monitoring emails to this inbox or calls during this time.

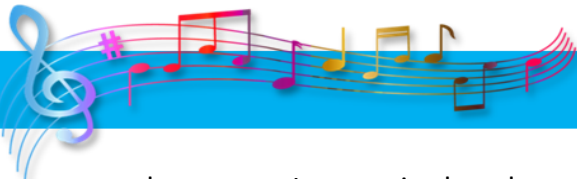
If you are seeking pastoral care and support, please contact Joanie Jackson or Pat Light, Co-Chairs of the Congregational Care Team, at iljinishi@gmail.com; (231) 883-9292 or tcpatsyann@gmail.com; (231) 409-8195. Additionally, my cell phone (231) 944-6935 will be answered by Rev. Wendy von Courter, who is available for pastoral emergencies. Her direct number is (231) 884-6434.

For administrative and all other questions, please email Arica Eshelman, Office Administrator, at office@uucgt.org.

In faith,



Rev. Alex Jensen



Music Corner

As summer draws near I am excited to share that I will be attending the [AUUMM Annual Conference](#) in Ann Arbor this July. This is the first conference they have held since the beginning of the pandemic and since I began at UUCGT. I am excited to meet colleagues, make connections, and hopefully bring back lots of wonderful new ideas and partnerships to brighten up our music program. I look forward to reporting back to the congregation next month with notes from what I am sure will be a wonderful experience.

Director of Music
Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com



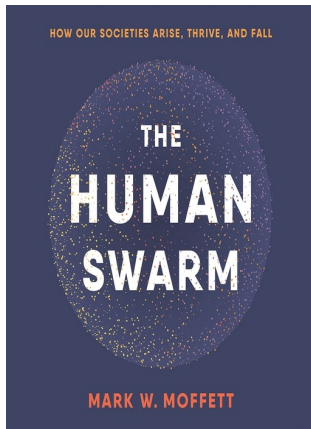


Two thought provoking talks by Anthony Wilgus will be held at 9:00 in the social hall prior to the service
Sunday, July 31 "Going Tribal"
Sunday, August 7, "Beyond Diagnosis"

On two consecutive Sundays, July 31 and August 7, we are excited to announce that we have a guest speaker prior to the two services at 9:00 AM in the social hall. Anthony Wilgus, Tony, is the husband of Rev. Beth Marshall, and will be giving talks prior to the two services she will be our guest Minister. Here is more about Tony:

Anthony J. (Tony) Wilgus, faculty emeritus from the University of Findlay, taught social work for 28 years subsequent to a 10-year stint as a clinical social worker and administrator. After graduate school at the University of Michigan, he entered the post-graduate training program at the Georgetown Family Center from 1979-1981.

Currently, he resides in Oberlin, OH with his wife, Rev. Beth Marshall. He occupies the 'next chapter of his life' by serving as a Leadership Facilitator for Healthy Congregations, Inc. and involvement in the local community. Cherishing his roles as a father of 3 lovely daughters and stepfather to a wonderful son and daughter, he now embraces the joys of grandparenthood to eight active youngsters ranging in ages from 1 to 16. Gardening, biking, reading voraciously, and listening to the loons on a Canadian lake bring much joy as he endeavors to lead a life of contemplation in action.



Going Tribal
July 31 at 9:00 in the social hall

In his book, "The Human Swarm", Mark Moffitt (a protégé of E.O. Wilson) describes the ways in which humans and their larger societies predictably organize themselves into 'us' and 'them.' This phenomenon is ubiquitous. The general population is familiar with this phenomenon as segments of society organize themselves into various tribal groups that encompass gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political and religious affiliations, and more. This discussion will acknowledge the biological constraints of tribalism as well as the uniquely human capacity to transcend those automatic impulses.



Beyond Diagnosis
August 7 at 9:00 in the social hall

Smoking causes cancer. Mental illness causes violence. My former spouse destroyed our marriage. The human brain is quite adept at cause and effect thinking. Quick, efficient and often inaccurate, this way of viewing the world yields simple answers to highly complex issues. This discussion will explore the challenges of not only developing a broader perspective on the human condition but also the wisdom of embracing ignorance. Discarding some of our cherished notions about problems in families, congregations, and society may lead to a more thoughtful way to engage those whom we 'diagnose' on a regular basis, viz., those who do not think and believe like we do, at least at first blush.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



We are Judy Maynard and Agustin Gurule, better known as Gus.

Judy is originally from Michigan. She grew up downstate, but left in 1960 for college at the University of Colorado and never came back to live until last fall. Gus is originally from New Mexico. We have both lived in California for decades.

We are climate migrants. We lived in an amazing senior community of almost 10,000 old folks called Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, California. It is beautiful with lots of trees, every amenity you could ask for, including 27 holes of golf. The golf course was to be our refuge in the event of fire. However, after the fires of the last few years, some made worse by the fire traveling in the canopy of the trees, it looked to be more of a trap than a refuge.

We lived almost two miles from the only entrance and exit to the community. We moved because we are too old to deal with the potential loss of our home to fire and tired of worrying about fire and smelling smoke 5-6 months a year, even when the fires were several hundred miles away.

Judy's mother and sister lived in Traverse City. Both are gone now. Her sister, Susan Willard, owned the local restaurant J&S Hamburg until about two years before she died. We visited here many times and spent the last year of Judy's mother's life living here. Experts on climate migration suggest moving to the upper Midwest. So, here we are.

We come from very different places. Judy grew up in the upper income Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe Shores, MI. Gus grew up in the largely Spanish speaking community of Alameda, NM which was founded in the 1500s. Judy is just a second generation American. Gus knows the names of his New Mexico ancestors back to before 1680. He didn't learn English until he went to school. Judy was raised in the Presbyterian Church, but has been an non-believer since about age 9 or 10. Gus' entered a seminary at age 14 and his first career was as a Catholic priest.

A definition of Unitarians is they are people from many backgrounds, have a variety of beliefs, but have the same values. That well describes us. We want to join the Unitarian Universalist Church of Grand Traverse as it includes a diversity of beliefs, but a commitment to our values of community involvement, social justice and peace.

welcome

Five individuals met June 10, 2022 and six additional members submitted notes to be read at the meeting and added to the minutes. In reviewing the year, Program Council had many great meetings with in-depth discussion and decisions on important actions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach, support for the Oil and Water Don't Mix campaign to shut down Line Five, Membership Bylaws Amendments and Relief for Ukraine garage sale.

At our fall start-up meeting we will initiate PC and all committee planning for the years' activities and goals.

Carolyn Hall Thompson reported that with Jane Watts' help she will chair the Kitchen Committee - please contact her if you can volunteer to be responsible for a month of checking on cleanliness of kitchen. Chris Lautz reported another new member welcome service for two individuals was planned for June 19. She also needs an updated simple database for membership and friend records. Amanda Mangiardi reported Sunday Services cannot volunteer for any specific weeks of helping with hospitality after Sunday Services due to the many activities they are already committed to on Sundays. She also indicated SS is discussing possible alternatives to bright spot lights used during live-streamed services and that SS requests no one add miscellaneous items to the storage room off the sanctuary where Sunday Service keeps all the things for the setting and uses that room as a staging area to prepare for the services.

Mary Van Valin added SS had a recent retreat where they initiated complete planning for the entire year. This will enable the music committee and VE to plan upcoming service music in a timely manner. Richard Miller reported Lautner's finally was able to get the irrigation turned on to the Memorial Garden area. Alex reported it has been a full, wonderful year and he brought up an idea of possibly having a congregation-wide retreat in the fall to plan and schedule Adult RE activities. Chris Walter reported the Board will now meet on the Third Wednesday evening, starting July 20. This will facilitate receiving complete Finance reports. The Board encourages more individuals to attend, learn what the Board discusses. Annual meeting ballot results - everything passed overwhelmingly; Board and COM members are completing Alex' Evaluations for Ministerial Fellowship Committee; Portable Basketball Hoop may be in the rear parking lot area from time to time by a POM resident. Program Council will not meet in July. Our next meeting is again on Zoom August 12, 2022, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. We encourage ALL committees ensure their committee chair or designee participates in these fruitful discussions and that any others in the congregation also tune in to discover what the Congregational committees are focused on in a timely manner.

Rick Walter—Program Committee Chair





“Summer is a period of luxurious growth.
To be in harmony with the atmosphere of summer,
awaken early in the morning and reach to the sun for nourishment to flourish as the gardens do.
Work, play, travel, be joyful, and grow into selfless service.
The bounty of the outside world enters and enlivens us.”
— Paul Pitchford

May we all be nourished by the “atmosphere of summer” and reach out to those in our congregation who could especially use our support. The Congregational Care Team visits, phones, sends cards, and helps in any way we can those whom we know to be in need. All of the members or friends listed below would probably appreciate knowing you’re thinking about them, too.

Sending love and support to those who have experienced major loss in recent months:

Nancy Doughty	Connie Mooney	Keeping in our thoughts: Shari Cope Barb Bloomer Kay Wentzel Marge Rundell Gary Deavel Ann Chinn
Paul Ward	Mary Grover	
Solveig Gustafson	Marcia Bellinger	
Ann Swanley	Mary Moody	
Christie McGue	Kat Norman	
Nancy Landfair	Bonnie Mathias	
Dave and Judith Halstead	Judith Briggs	
Nancy and Don Fraser		

Wishing Bill Hansen well as he moves to be nearer his family:
Bill will be moving in July to: Independence #353, 2530 Marfit, Lansing, MI, 48823.

And, as usual, please let us know if you or some other member or friend of our congregation could use the Team’s help.

Your Congregational Care Team

Rev. Alex Jensen	231-947-3117	alexjensen@uucgt.org
Co-Chair: Joanie Jackson	231-883-9292	jljnishi@gmail.com
Co-chair: Pat Light	231-409-8195	patricialight@sbcglobal.net

Wishing you Happy 4th of July and a summer of “harmony, nourishment, and growth”.

Millie Putz—Congregational Care Team member



Listening?

"Listening comes hard
We can sing and read and look, taste and smell and touch,
But listening comes hard to us.
We hear with our ears. We must listen with our hearts."



We hear a lot. Can we hear what is really being said? Are we listening? Listening to the things we want to hear? There is a bombardment of noise, words and sounds constantly. We are used to closing some of it off, but much still penetrates our subconscious. Can we separate the rhetoric, the good from the bad, the shouting from the quiet words whispered in our ears? Some of the rhetoric is shouted so often and so loudly at us, we can repeat it even though we never listened to it.

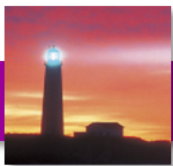
The repetitious speaker shouting constantly at first admits he may, may not, believe it, but as time goes on and he shouts it more and more, again and again, he no longer knows another truth. It must be as he is shouting it. He soon believes it as he convinces others with his rhetoric, louder and louder, again and again. It is received in our ears but not listened to.

The father of my childhood friend said this, and I only quote part of it:

"And oh, make us sensitive, Lord-
Sensitive to the sound of the words which other men speak-
Sensitive to the sounds of their words— and to the silences between."

Can the rhetoric shouter of today even hear his own silences, and thoughts and feeling, between? Can we hear the silences, feelings, and meaning? We can try. Be grateful, listen, and enjoy.

Emmy Lou Cholak—Social Justice Committee Chair



THE BEACON



Do you have something to add to the Beacon? An article, a personal reflection, a book suggestion? Please help make our newsletter a great way to communicate with our beloved community. Submissions are due by the end of the day on the 23rd of each month. Send to Beacon Editor Amanda Mangiardi at jomangiardi@hotmail.com





Financial Summary as of May 31, 2022

	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Operating Income Received	\$ 260,957.85	82.4
Expenses Paid	\$ 258,463.53	80.1

With one more month left in our fiscal year we anticipate being very close to our goal of break even operations. Although we are through nearly 92% of the year and only at 82.4% of budgeted revenue, our expenses are also below budget. Both results we believe are largely attributable to the nearly full year continuation of Covid's presence. Our budget for next year (our fiscal year begins July 1) is built on increase in pledges and donations although less of an increase than sought. It is not too late to make or increase your pledge. For more detailed information go to our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, and, finally on Monthly Comparison. Any questions can be directed to your Finance Committee which includes Tom Dalton, Dusty Colton, Nancy Doughty and Jim Walworth

*Do small
things with
GREAT love.*

**Unitarian Universalist Con-
gregation
of Grand Traverse**
6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802

- the Beacon -



June 2022